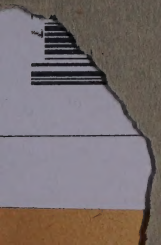

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LIFE AND WORK

BULLETIN

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AT GENEVA

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CONTENT

Editorial 1

Prague 1928 3

The European Central Bureau 6

Commissions of Life and Work 8

Schools of Social Service 10

Social Activities of The Churches 11

Social Activities of international secular and religious organisations 24

Literature 32

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Other articles on the situation in England, America, India and Australia are to be found in the German edition of this Bulletin.

Editorial

The General Secretary during the month of October had the opportunity of entering into personal contact with a number of social organisations and groups of employers and workers in Germany and France, as well as in England. On invitation, he delivered several lectures on the Institute.

His first visit was to the Rhineland and Ruhr district, at the eve of the great lock-out. Several of the great industrial works of that area were visited, the Chemical Works at Leverkusen, the " Gute-Hoffnung-Hütte ", the United Steel Works, the Motor Manufactories Deutz, the Krupp Works, the large apprenticeship shops and psycho-technical Institute at Gelsenkirchen. Industrialists and management were deeply interested in the Institute. Informal conferences were arranged with managers, and labour leaders. The arrangements were made by the Social Pastor of the Rhenanian Synod.

At a Social course for church people organised at Nuremberg the General Secretary lectured on the international aspect of the social task of the Church, while another member of the Commission, Herr Streiter, spoke on the International Labour Office.

Immediately following his visit to Germany the General Secretary went to London where he had been asked to lecture to several societies and groups. He had also been invited to attend the impressive Youth Conference at Croydon. Talks with labour leaders at the Labour Club and with a group of industrialists impressed on him the fact that while the social struggle is not less intense in Great Britain than it is on the Continent, it has not led to that estrangement from and bitter hatred of the Church and Religion, on the part at least the leaders' of labour, as is the case in Continental countries.

Another most hopeful aspect of the situation in England is the willingness on the part of a great many industrialists to study the social implications of the Gospel and to work out solutions in industry in accordance with Christian principles.

The Copec Movement is entering now what may be called its final stage. The Copec Organisation has been the free laboratory for the social and religious leaders of the country. The wonderful inspiration and impetus it has given to the country is now taken up on a broader and more responsible basis by the Churches themselves which are now organising the Christian Social Council. We refer here to a special notice on the new Council in this issue, on page ...

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The Bulletin will appear in the future in separate English, German and French editions. Of course, they will not be identical, as the most important international task of the Bulletin lies in an exchange of information from churches in other countries than their own, where sufficient information is already available. On the other hand, it may in certain cases interest readers for whom direct information is not obtainable, to have information from America or England or other English speaking countries.

Subscriptions for the Bulletin may be sent to the Institute, 19 Rue de Candolle, Geneva, to the Bureau for Social Research of the Federal Council, 105 East 22nd St., New York, and to the Christian Social Council, 4 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London. The subscription price for the separate edition will be indicated in the next number.

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Correspondents, particularly in those countries where there is no central office, are requested to send in to the Institute regular information concerning social events and movements in their country. News of this type is welcomed even when it is suitable for immediate publication but rather for the general information and direction of the Institute.

* * *

The meeting of the International Executive Committee of the Y.M.C.A. took place in Geneva from November 3rd to November 7th, in the presence of Dr. Mott, who was on his way to India. The General Secretary of the Institute had been invited to attend this meeting and had thus the opportunity to discuss with the Committee, the possibility of future co-operation. The establishing of a common library, translations, information service and Research work, will be a most important feature.

* * *

The Social Institute is the fifty-third international organisation which has established its headquarter in Geneva. There are already several International Christian Organisations with headquarters here, such as the World Committee of the Y.M.C.A., the Student Christian Movement, and the European Bureau for Inter-Church Aid. The World Committee of the Y.W.C.A. has informed us that their headquarters will also be transferred to Geneva.

It is also planned to establish in Geneva the Bureau for Social Research, which was etablished by the International Missionary Council, and the question was discussed in different quarters, whether or not other headquarters of other Christian Organisations might follow. Geneva will therefore become one of the important Religious World Centers.

Prague 1928

The town with the most beautiful silhouette in Europe was this summer the centre of an active ecclesiastical international life. The World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches held an important meeting there, which was described by Prof. Sigmund-Schultze[1] as a mile-stone in the history of the Christian Church. The Church, for the first time in its history, found there the courage, and prophetic vision, to believe in the change of weapons of war into instruments of peace, and to take seriously the words of Christ: Put up again thy sword into its place.

At the same time there met also the international Executive Committee of the European Central Bureau for Church Relief, and likewise the Commission of the International Institute of Social Christianity in Geneva. From August 30 to September 5 were held the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Continuation Committee of the Stockholm Conference, and from September 5-7 the Continuation Committee of the Conference on Faith and Order.

As a printed report will be sent to members of the Conference and to Church officials, we give here only a short general account and a report of the most important decisions taken. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Cadman, President of the Federal Council of Churches.

The meeting gave the Committee its first opportunity of considering the Papal Encyclical. It was resolved that, in view of the misrepresentation of the Conference contained in this manifesto, the best form of answer would be a re-statement of the aims and intentions of the Stockholm Movement by the Commission on Theology. Thus useless discussion would be avoided, and a positive attitude taken up.

The motions presented by the Commission of the Institute, a further report on which will be found in this number, were adopted by the meeting. They mark an important step forward in the organisation and work of the Institute. They provide for the public discussion at future meetings of the Continuation Committee not merely questions of administration, but of the big and burning problems

[1] Um den Weltfrieden, a report on the Prague conference.

of present-day social life. In the same way the Institute will aim at securing the cooperation of scientific experts in the domain of its studies.

It is extremely desirable that the Church should cooperate with all men of good will in the domain of social service, and this entails contact with experts in economics, biology, psychology and pedagogy.

A plan put forward by the European Central Bureau for the creation of a Protestant Credit Association with the support of Swiss and international bankers, was approved, with the hope that it might be possible by such means to lessen the present prevailing housing difficulty.

In the report of the General Secretary Dr Atkinson, a plan was proposed for securing better co-ordination between the various international movements. A special commission was appointed to consider this question, consisting of Archbishop Germanos, Dr Cadman, the Bishop of Winchester, President Kapler, Dr Atkinson, Dr Keller, Professor Deissmann, Principal Garvie, Archimandrite Scriban and Archbishop Söderblom. It is clear that such a coordination is an urgent necessity, especially since a series of such organisations, such as the Institute, the European Central Bureau, the Social Research Bureau of the Missionary Council, and the Secretariate of the Life and Work Movement, have either taken up their quarters in Geneva, or are planning to do so.

The Report of the General Secretary of the Institute, which is being sent out in printed form with the general report, was completed by a special plan drawn up by Dr Tippy, the chief points of which were the development of the Social Research Department and the calling together every year of a Commission of experts in social work to advise the Institute. A breath of fresh life was brought into the meeting when Basil Mathews, Chairman of the Youth Commission, introduced the representatives of youth. The boys and girls, coming from various countries, spoke freely and frankly and with a pleasant self-assurance, and seemed not in the least over-awed at finding themselves in a gathering of the most important Church leaders of the world. It is one of the most valuable results of the Conference that Stockholm and youth are beginning to get to know each other. Special reports will be issued on the preparatory work of this Youth Commission, as well as on the Professors' Commission and the Press Commission.

The publication of the review " Stockholm " was assured by the support of the German Church Federation and the guarantee of the American and British groups for the next two years.

The budget, which was presented to the Conference by the Chairman of the Finance Commission, contains the following figures: For the Continuation Committee £ 600, for the Institute about 50,000 Swiss francs. The Budget for the Continuation Committee will be provided by the European, American and British groups in equal shares. Three fifths of the Budget for the Institute will be raised by the American group, and one-fifth each by the British and Continental groups.

It was recommended that the various countries should hold special conferences, in order to impress the Stockholm idea more deeply on the public mind. The next general Conference will not be held in any case before 1932, and probably not before 1935.

The Peace Resolution of the World Alliance for the Promotion of International Friendship through the Churches was warmly welcomed by the Committee. It expressed regret that the Governments are doing so little to solve the problem of disarmament, to which a solution must be found if a new war is to be avoided. It also pointed out that the setting-up of an arbitration tribunal was indispensable. The Committee therefore recommends that the Churches draw attention to these obligations which all the members of the League of Nations have incurred, and calls upon them to make their moral influence effective for the carrying out of these aims.

A motion was adopted that groups of " Friends of Stockholm " should be formed in all countries, so that the Stockholm message may be carried among the people and pioneer work accomplished; it was however left to each country to decide on the methods for putting this idea into practice.

The Committee recommended the promotion of all serious endeavours to carry on the work for peace on a basis of justice. It also recommended the Churches to induce their Governments to bring the question of the fight against alcoholism before the League of Nations, and likewise approved of the campaign waged by the Swiss Church Alliance against gambling.

The promotion of work amongst sailors was recommended to the attention of the Institute. The great " Near East Relief " campaign was also approved of. This organisation has already collected 110 million dollars and needs six million more in order to complete its work.

Dr Kapler was chosen President of the European group in place of Archbishop Söderblom, who was elected Honorary President. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in Germany, and the following probably in Athens in the spring of 1930.

The various groups reported on the growth of the Movement in their fields. It is still true to say that it has its strongest backing on the Continent of Europe. In America a new grouping of the various bodies occupied with international relations is taking place. The American report proposes that the task of superintending such international relations should in future be entrusted to the American Life and Work Committee, as representing the whole American Church movement.

The fifth group, that of the younger Churches, was accorded, by a decision of the Continuation Committee, a special representation on the general organisation.

The European Central Bureau

This Office has come into closer contact with the Institute since the Secretariates of both organisations were brought together by a union of the two staffs. Both organisations are now housed in the same offices in Geneva.

The international Committee, consisting of representatives of the cooperating Churches, also held its meeting in Prague on August 28 and 29. The present situation on the Continent is that, although the distress of the last few years is considerably alleviated, there is still great need and much poverty in some of the Churches and more especially in the religious institutions. The Churches and Protestant institutions are still suffering from the consequences of the war, which hinder them in their efforts at reconstruction; many institutions are still unable to stand on their own feet.

The European Central Bureau laid special stress, in addition to the help given to these institutions, on the task of providing Christian leaders. With the help of an American Foundation is has been able to establish a hundred bursaries a year, by means of which many poor students of theology have been enabled to continue their studies. The Office has also frequently served as a clearing-office for the various relief organisations of the different Churches in the various countries. Its funds last year, including balance, amounted to about 1 1/2 millions Swiss francs including the direct contributions of the Churches.

The Central Bureau has the advantage of the services of an advisory committee of Swiss bankers. This committee together with the Office has worked out a plan for the setting up of a Protestant Cooperative Credit Association, since the securing of American loans proved difficult on account of the high rate of interest. The Executive

Committee recommended the carrying out of this plan and it is hoped that such Cooperative Societies will be formed in other countries also and that they will be brought into international connection with one another.

The Central Bureau has become a sort of Red Cross Society of the Churches. Its importance lies not only in the material help which it gives, but in the new sense of mutual responsibility which it arouses and the readiness to help which is indispensable for the carrying out a common task.

It was decided to add to the Committee representatives of countries where distress prevails and where the Churches have united together into a Church Federation. The suggestion that the Bureau should be affiliated to the Life and Work Movement was approved, provided that the organisation preserves its independent character and its separate administration. Rev. O. Bauhofer is Secretary of the Central Office, whilst Dr Keller retains the general direction.

Information Service.

A. Commissions of Life and Work.

1. COMMISSION OF THE INSTITUTE

This Commission met in Prague on August 30, with Professor Titius in the Chair. Part of the business dealt with has already been referred to in connection with the account of the Prague Conférence, in as far, that is, as its proposals were adopted by the Continuation Committee.

Dr. Tippy submitted a memorandum containing a plan for the reorganisation of the Institute, the result of consultation between Dr. Thélin, Dr. Schönfeld and Dr. Keller. As the memorandum is printed in the Minutes of the Prague Meeting, we give here only a summary of its main points. Its chief aim is to bring the Institute into the closest possible cooperation with the social service organisations of the Churches. For this purpose it is proposed to add to the Institute a Conference of Church leaders and experts in social service, who have practical experience of such work. This Conference would meet once a year. Independent religious organisations for social work and the various tendencies and groups devoting themselves to social service would form the body of experts to whom the Research Department of the Institute would look for inspiration and guidance.

A special Sub-Committee with Dr. Thélin (Geneva) as Chairman was appointed to call together this Conference of Experts and to work out suggestions for research work. The Committee for calling the Conference consists of the following: Rev. P. T. R. Kirk, London; Dr. Worth M. Tippy, New-York; Prälat Dr. D. Schoell, Stuttgart; Pasteur Elie Gounelle, St. Etienne; Disponent K. F. Göransson, Sweden, and the General Secretary for the Institute ex officio.

The following subjects have been proposed up to the present: Unemployment, Condition of the Coal Industry, Attitude of Capital and Labour to Religion, Cooperation between Employers and Employees, Attitude of the Church to the Stockholm Message, War Debts.

With the beginning of the social research work of our Institute the Bulletin will also take a new form.

A small Business committee, which can easily meet in Geneva, shall be formed to assist the General Secretary.

The Commission of the Institute has been extended and now consists of the following members :

Dr. A. Titius; Dr. A.E. Garvie; Rev. E. Gounelle; Dr. Worth M. Tippy; Dr. Macfarland; The Minister Slotemaker of Bruine; Dr. Adolf Keller;Dr. Georges Thélin; Dr. J. Baltzer; Dr. A. Jörgenson; Hr. Streiter; Dr. Philipps; Bishop D. Billing; Prof Beth; Bishop Cannon; Miss L. Gardner; Miss Dingman as representative of the Y.W.C.A.; Mr. Johannot as representative of the Y.M.C.A.; Mr. Johnson, New-York; M. W. Paton, London, as representative of the Research Bureau which is going to be established by the International Missionary Council.

The Sub-Committee for entering into Relations with the Workers remains as a separate working group within the Commission of the Institute.

2. THE PRESS COMMISSION

The Press Commission held its last meeting previous to the Prague Conference at the International Press Exhibition in Cologne.

At this Exhibition the religious press and literature of twenty-four countries was represented. It is probable that never before has so complete a collection of oecumenical literature been brought together.

This International Press Conference marks a new era in the co-operation of the Christian press all over the world. Editors from seventeen different countries came into personal contact there. A world-wide religious press based on a community of spiritual outlook is in process of formation. The lectures given by Archbishop Söderblom, Mr. Slotemaker de Bruyne and Professor Deissmann on the mission of the press found a wide response, and by their positive and affirmative character furnished the best possible reply, at this time in Cologne, to the Papal Encyclical.

This international Conference also gave a strong stimulus to the activities of the Stockholm Press Commission, by the desire which it expressed that the Churches should be led to give more attention to the press of their countries and also to arrange smaller press conferences.

The Commission is anxious to gather a general impression of the after-effects of the Stockholm Conference. It expressed the view that instead of a complete centralisation of the press service it would be desirable to create special centres for this work in Berlin, in America, in England and in the Orthodox world.

2. THE YOUTH COMMISSION.

This Commission has adopted the following aims for the immediate future:

1. It proposes to bring into closer touch with one another those writers who are specially devoting themselves to the treatment of modern scientific problems in the light of religion, and also to collect the necessary material for meeting the needs of youth in regard to the relations of religion and science.

2. It seeks to promote an exchange of experience with regard to work amongst youth between the Church and the big youth organisations.

3. Work for youth should be begun in countries where it has hitherto been but little developed, particularly in South Eastern Europe.

4. Special youth camps should be organised, in which the Stockholm idea should be fostered. For this purpose a special literature is necessary.

Miss Lucy Gardner was appointed Chairman of the Commission, with Mr Visset' Hooft and Mr Kirk as Secretaries.

4. *Theological Commission.*

The Theological Commission has co-opted a number largely of younger members. Prof. Aulen, of Lund, is preparing a liturgical service book for the ecumenical gatherings. Initial steps have been taken towards establishing relations between Theological faculties, including Orthodox and Old Catholic faculties.

Two important theological conferences were held at Eisenach, and at Paris. The Commission is collaborating with the European Central Bureau.

SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL SERVICE

The Paris Conference for Social Work shows to what a large extent social service has now become secularised. It is to-day a matter of science, technique, organisation, insight into the laws of social life, the organised systematic activity of the whole community.

This is shown for instance in the setting up of Schools of Social Service. There are now no fewer than 109 such Institutes in 14 different countries. Germany alone has 30, Switzerland 3. These Schools are either public organisations, supported by the State, or private undertakings. A few are under religious auspices. In America and England they are generally attached to the University.

At the University of Chicago for example there is a special Social Service Department, which confers academic degrees. Since 1919 there has existed in America a Union of Social Training Colleges of this kind, to which 25 Universities and Colleges and five independent institutions belong. The programme includes a general training in

political economy, sociology, social diagnosis, legislation, as well as a certain amount of study of medecine and psychology, statistics, administration, the various aspects of the social movement and above all research. In Germany such Institutes are usually attached to the faculty of political economy. In Berlin there is one in connection with the Theological Faculty, under the direction of Professor D. Seeberg.

On completion of training there are possibilities of posts in connection with the care and relief of the poor, Care Committees, Young " Offenders " Courts, Education, Parochial Work, Industrial Welfare Work, Local Government Work. In Hungary the State employs people trained in such Social Service Training in connection with its State Insurance scheme.

B. Social Activities of the Churches and other religious organisations.

Germany.

The Conference of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

The 4th Conference of the International Federation of Christian Workers' Unions was held in Munich, from September 25th to 27th. The aims and motives of this movement, as manifested at the Conference, are of greatest interest to the Churches and the Stockholm Movement in particular. In one of the resolutions adopted by the Conference, the Churches are being appealed to to watch the dangers to moral and spiritual life resulting from the new development in industry.

These new developments are to be seen especially in the movements for concentration of industrial interests, and scientific rationalization in industrial processes. Concentration is going on both nationally and internationally by ways of trusts. They are instrumental in a more rational industrial production and distribution of products. The advantages of this system were by no means overlooked and underrated by the Conference. But it was pointed out that they create a tendency towards monopolistic exploitation of the general industrial situation to the disadvantage, not only of the workers, but of the community at large and the Conference therefore expressed its determination on behalf of the Christian Workers' Unions to fight all excesses and evils resulting from this. The Conference demanded control by the state, as representing the interests of the community, a representation of the employees in those trusts and also in a thorough-going investigation into industrial and business tendencies on an international basis.

This attitude of the Conference is deserving the full interest of the Churches, especially where not only the right for control by the public authorities and by workers is aimed at but co-operation between employers and employees is asked for. This is proof of a growing consciousness of a common responsibility and of a new human element of esteem and confidence between the two parties of industrial life, which counter-balances to a certain extent the tensions and antagonisms of the social struggle.

While the Conference was ready to see the advantages of a rationalization of the industrial processes, yet it expressed its fears as to illimited extension of these methods without regard to the workers' welfare and the broad effects on the community. The dangers inherent in the principle of rationalization were seen especially in the lowering of the social value of labour, in the widening of the gulf between the workers and the management, and in a dangerous shaking of the sense of responsibility of the worker and, in addition, of course, in the increase of unemployment with all its demoralizing consequences.

The Conference did not confine itself to mere criticisms, but tried to show also constructive ways to overcome the evils criticized. We should point out here the efforts to arrive at a new understanding of the workers' part in industry, the problems relating to the growth and development of free and responsible personalities and the creating of the material and moral requirements to attain this, and furthermore the problem of training entire groups of workers in other types of industrial work, so as to eliminate for them the danger of permanent unemployment where their services are no longer needed on account of rationalized methods of production along their line of work. All this calls also for the keenest interest and sympathy on the part of the Churches.

We cannot go into greater details in reviewing the work of the Conference and the aims of the International Federation of Christian Workers' Unions. The impression gathered from the deliberations on all the manyfold problems which were before the Conference, was that the main and most fundamental problem at the present moment is the human question involved in the social and industrial problems. Here, once more, a coincidence in the attitude may be found in the views and claims of this representative Conference and in the principles and ideals of the Stockholm Movement. The Institute was represented by Dr Hans Schönfeld.

Dr Schönfeld.

* * *

"*Iron and Conscience*".

The Lock-out in the Ruhr made more than 200.000 workers workless and threw thousands of families in bitter need, because the employers declared that the metallurgic industry could not bear the increase of the salary from 78 to 93 pfennig per hour.

The State has offered its arbitration and made the decision of the arbitration court compulsory. But the employers contested the legal right of this declaration. The Press Service of the Christian Trade Unions says in Nr. 45 that these recent struggles are mostly aimed at the Christian Unions which in the Rhineland are mostly Catholic but include also Protestant workers. The Christian Trade Unions increased their membership in the minors' union in Western Germany from 32 to 40 % whilst the free or neutral Trade Unions mostly of socialist tendency decreased from 68 to 60 %.

In the present lock-out in the metallurgic industry of the Rhineland and the Ruhr, the churches of the Province of the Rhineland and Wesphalia have sent an appeal to the German Government to make a fresh attempt for the reconciliation of the parties.

The Church does not consider it her task to give a judgment on the right or wrong of economic claims or on the present political situation. They suggested considering whether economic experts having the confidence of the parties should not be invited to make new proposals in the present struggle. It is considered as hopeful, that an agreement between the parties could be reached on the underlying principles behind these struggles. The Church was afraid that all delay is increasing the confusion and the depression which is spreading over hundreds of thousands German families.

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Different religious social organizations have published special statements wherein they complain the struggle in the German industry at a moment when Germany is so much in need of inner unity. They invite Capital and Labour earnestly not to envenim this struggle by a mere will of power or legal litigation, but to find an agreement, as brothers, by mutual agreement or co-operation.

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On the proposal of the Evangelical Superior Consistory at Berlin, the Minister for Welfare has authorized the Churches, Catholic as well as Protestant, to undertake practical enterprises in housing in the same way as communities or private building societies.

* * *

The Association of Christian Trade Unions numbered in 1927, 720.059 members. It increased its membership by 76.000 members last year. The income of the association was 20.814.000 Mk, the expenditure 13.857.000. The Union of Christian Clerks includes 316.612 members with an income of 11 millions of Mk. These different unions form the German Trade Union on a Christian nationalist basis with 1.150.000 members. The proportion between the Christian Unions and the Socialist movement on a Marxist basis was before the war 1: 7, after the war 1: 4, to-day 1: 3.

The Christian union in the iron industry has again reached the index of salaries before the war. The week's working time was on the average 51 3/4 hours. The Union participated in the last year in 239 collective bargains.

* * *

The Social Service Committee of the " Kirchlich-Sozialer Bund " has arranged a winter program with courses on " The Affiliation of the Working Classes to Church Congregations ", " Rural Settlements ", " Present day Tendencies ", " Industry ", " The International Social Task of the Church "; " Social Ethics ", " Sexual problems ", etc.

* * *

The Evangelical Church of Thüringen arranged a general assembly in Saalburg where different social and industrial problems were discussed. It opened a hostel for Christian workers and created the post of a " social pastor " (Rodenberg). He made an enquiry into the situation of the workers in the Kali-industry.

On the proposal of the religious socialists a committee of social experts was appointed to observe the industrial movement from the standpoint of the Church.

* * *

The Annual Report for 1926 of the Union of German Employers' Associations expresses itself as follows concerning the attitude of the Church towards social policy: « It is therefore natural and understandable that the Christian Churches have repeatedly taken occasion to make known their views and discharge their duty in the matter of Social Questions by issuing manifestos and declarations ». Special reference is made to the Guiding Principles published by Cardinal Schulte. The Report remarks that such declarations on the part of the Churches are of the very greatest importance for the attainment of the understanding which is so absolutely necessary, and continues: « In order to make it easier for the Churches to perform their difficult task of mediation and reconciliation, it will be

necessary that the employers also should give them that insight into and knowledge of economic conditions and laws without which effective action is impossible. The World Conference of the Christian Churches at Stockholm, August 19-30 1925, at which the principle was incontestibly established that Labour and Capital are the two factors of production, each having need of the other, gave to the Churches and the Associations connected with them the stimulus and the guiding principles for their work in support of practical Christianity. Its influence may be seen in the subjects chosen for discussion at Conferences and Congresses held during the last few years, in some of which groups of workers also took part.

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Larger responsibility for Working People in Church administration.

In a recent issue of the Kirchlich-Soziale Blätter, the monthly magazine of Kirchlich-sozialer Bund which has been founded by Stoecker, Dr. Jagow makes an urgent appeal to the electoral body of the Church of the old Prussian Union, to give a larger and more proportionate share to representatives of labour, in the Administrative bodies of congregations and of the Church. He says that while it has been a custom to give church offices to members of the well-to-do classes, this custom has become wholly obsolete in the present situation. Owing to that custom the church has become largely what he calls, " a church of the gentry " instead of a church of the people. At any rate, he points out, the classes from which church officers used to be chosen have ceased to be considered the morally leading and representative class of the country. Is it not fair to give to that section of the Evangelical people which numbers 60 % of the population, a fair representation in the local church bodies and in the synods, where at the present time there are only from three to five employees. It is of course true that a large per centage of the working class has no connection with a church, and that from the point of view of the church it is undesirable that the distinctly antireligious sectors of the working class should have a responsibility in church administration, as it is sometimes advocated by socialists. There are however large masses of Evangelical labouring men organized into the great Christian and Evangelical Trade Unions. Dr. Jagow suggests that local committees be formed to nominate candidates from the Christian Trade Unions for the local church bodies and the central administrative organizations of the Church. He quotes the example of an outstanding church leader, who declined his election to a high position in the central church organization, in order to make room on that body for a representative

of labour, which otherwise would have been completely shut out from any responsibility in church administration of that section of the country.

Dr. Jagow in concluding, repeats the words of a Christian leader in Germany to the effect that the church will not win any one class of people, for example the labouring class, unless she is prepared to give that class a definite responsibility in the life and administration of the church.

General Principles adopted by the Fourth Congress of Religious Socialists at Mannheim.

(Mannheim Principles.)

« 1. The religious socialists, conscious of their responsibilites to God and their fellow men, identify themselves with the struggle of the revolutionary proletariate for the new Socialist order of society. They recognise that religion must play a decisive part in the building up of the Socialist community. 2. The capitalist system entails a class war in industry, in politics and in all relations of social life. The possessing and therefore ruling class naturally seeks to secure the existing state of things, to keep the dependent and non-possessing class in subjection, and to exploit it for its own advantage. The oppressed masses on the other hand seek to free themselves and to secure a better kind of life for man as a social being. The proletariate carries on this class-war according to the principles which it has learned from Karl Marx. The organisation of Religious Socialists repudiates any sort of propaganda against this struggle of the workers for the reorganisation of industry and society. This however does not prevent the Religious Socialists, like all other Socialists, from studying and criticising the fundamental principles of the Marxian methods of work and study, and endeavouring to complete them and deepen them. 3. It is the special task of the Religious Socialists to make the power of the Gospel effective in the life of the individual and for the building up of the Socialist community. They therefore carry on a determined struggle against the anti-Socialist attitude and propaganda of the existing Churches, and of the organisations and periodicals which call themselves Christian. 4. The Religious Socialists are convinced that the victory of the proletariate cannot be prevented, if the weary and heavy-laden, the oppressed and exploited carry on the struggle imposed on them by their misery and distress in the conviction: « It is the will of God that we work with all our might for the new social order, the social order of the future, an order based on justice, peace and human brotherhood ».

France.

From Nov. 10th to 14th, there was held at Paris the Congress of the French Federation for Social Christianity, under the presidency of the famous economist Professor Ch. Gide. The Federation, whose secretary is Pasteur Elie Gounelle, is the central social agency of French Protestantism. Lectures were given on the Brotherhood movement, the social service schools, on Youth and the social problem, on the interrelation of Democracy, socialism, and Christianity. The discussions that ensued were most illuminating. The religious socialists, led ably by Prof. Philip, of the Law Faculty of Lyon, expressed their conviction as to the possibility and necessity of a synthesis between Christianity and Socialism, while other members of the Conference were inclined to question this by pointing out the actual attitude of the socialist party.

A public discussion meeting was held in one of the centres of organised labour in Paris. The representatives of labour who were speaking did not wish to refuse the cooperation of individual Christians but they passionately rejected the idea that the Christian religion might offer to Socialism higher ideals and inspirations, Christianity, according to them, has no such higher ideals to give, its other-worldliness leading to the acquiescence in the actual state of things. It became evident that these socialist critics had only a very slight and sterotype knowledge of Christianity, and that they had all been brought up either in a Catholic or free thought environment.

An afternoon was reserved to international relations and especially to the relations with the Stockholm Institute and the International Labour Office. Dr. Thélin and Keller, and Prof. Wilfred Monod were the speakers.

* * *

The Forces of French Social Christianity Welcome the Christian Social Institute.

The Conference on Social Christianity held at Paris from Nov. 10-14th unanimously adopted the following resolutions :

" The Conference rejoices in greeting the creation of the Geneva International Christian Social Institute organised by the Continuation Committee of the Universal Conference on Life and Work.

After having heard the report of its devoted secretary, Dr. Adolf Keller, on the programme and the technical organisation of this Institute of scientific information and international action, the Conference resolves :

(1) to support with all its strength the international effort of the Churches aiming at the application of the Gospel to all spheres of public life both national and international;

(2) to collaborate in the closest possible way with the Institute, and its conferences and commissions.

The Conference expresses its desire to see it made possible for it to be represented by a research expert in the Institute's department for Social Research.

The Conference expresses the wish that the Institute organise to the profit of all Christian Social Organisations :

(1) An *international Library,* the works and files of which were to be put at the disposal of all Christian Organisations, and

(2) *Labour Weeks,* of the same kind as those organised so successfully by the late *Herbert Stead,* where qualified representatives of Labour and of the Christian Churches met one another year after year, so as to bring into contact the forces of Christianity and Socialism and strive to eliminate if possible the misunderstandings which separate, at least on the Continent, of Europe, large masses of labour from the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

(3) to proceed to study the possibilities of *founding an International Federation for Social Christianity.*

England.

The Christian Social Council (being the Council of Churches in England for Social Questions) which was founded recently is to be composed in the main of representatives nominated by the Social Service Committees of the different Churches in this country, with a liberal arrangement for co-opted members who have special ability for our work. At a later date there will be representatives from Local Christian Social Councils as well.

Whe shall work with five Standing Committees from the outset. One of these will be a Finance Committee; another will deal with all questions of International relationship, including our co-operation with the Life and Work Movement generally; another will promote the formation of Local Christian Social Councils; another will be concerned with Research; and a fifth will deal with Educational Publications.

The first full meeting of the new Council will not take place until the latter part of January. The members of the Council are, however, in most cases already nominated, and Interim Committees are already at work on every section of the work, and we hope on the 1st of January to enter into our new premises and commence working with our clerical staff in the same buildings as the British Institute of Social Service, whose well equipped Library and Files of Pamphlet information should be of very great service to us on the study side of our work.

It is too early yet to say who will be the Officers of the new Council, except that the Rev. V.A. Demant will be the Director of Research. Meantime the Bishop of Winchester is presiding over the Provisional Council which is acting for the time being, and Mr. Kirk and M. Malcolm Spencer are acting as Joint Secretaries in the same interim way.

British National Conference on Youth
(organized by the Copec Continuation Committee).

The recent British National Conference surveyed the extensive field of the youth of 14-18 in relation to Education, Industry, and religion, and while it is not possible in a small space to enumerate all the important recommendations made, the following summary may be of interest.

The Churches should be asked to frame religious instructions upon accepted educational and psychological principles, encouraging free discussion in youth-groups, and giving to youth a larger share in the life and services of the Church.

That education for most children should cease at 14 is most unsatisfactory and the young lad should be regarded as a learner rather than as an earner. Day Continued Education is called for, and the more adequate control and protection of unskilled juvenile labour by the establishment of a maximum working week of 48 hours to include academic instruction, and the provision of advice on vocational selection before the termination of the school career.

It was strongly felt that closer co-operation between voluntary bodies which provide leisure occupations for youth is needed; and educational authorities are being asked to assist youth organisations by the use of school grounds for camps, playing-fields, etc.

Out of the 600,000 lads and girls who leave school each year on attaining the age of 14, it is estimated that some 450,000 are not attached to any social, educational or religious agency which provides leasure interests. A determined effort is to be made to combat this by the provision of additional and different leisure attractions. The censorship of films is a matter which calls for further action, as also legislation against public advertising of contraceptives and pernicious literature.

The legal control of children still leaves a great deal to be desired; and it was urged that " the age of consent " for girls be raised to 17 and a similar standard be set for boys.

This is a fraction of the practical steps urged by the National Conference; but from this can be gauged how important was this —

the last piece of work which Copec as such will organise; for with the new year that effective body is to be merged into the new Christian Social Council.

J. Lure-Noble.

Switzerland.

The Swiss Protestant Church Federation is making a stand against an attempt on the part of certain local and group interests to re-introduce gambling tables into Switzerland. The Swiss Churches, together with the Swiss Association of Home Missions and Christian Social Service are pointing out in the press and in special messages the harmful effects of gambling and the fact that powerful financial interests are behind the movement for its re-introduction. Unfortunately this struggle against the dangerous evil was not yet successful.

At the suggestion of the Swiss Protestant Church Federation the various Associations for Home Missions, Youth Work, Relief Work, Evangelisation, Christian Trade Unions, Work among Women, etc., have joined together in a national Association under the presidency of Pastor Kőchlin, of Basle.

* * *

At the beginning of October a conference of religious social workers was held in Bale. Leonhard Ragaz, who recently celebrated his sixtieth birthday, spoke on the subject of how we are to present Christ to Socialist Labour. He emphasised that our task must be to bring Socialism, which cannot of itself satisfy the soul, within the compass of the greater and more comprehensive faith from which it takes its rise — the faith in the Kingdom of God. But we must not approach the workers in a spirit of condescension, with " Home Missions " and " conversion ". The Church must confess her failure and that of official Christianity, and do penance for it; then and not till then will she find a hearing amongst the workers.

Hungary.

The Reformed and Lutheran Churches have been recently endeavouring to promote the idea of a closer alliance by holding joint conferences. They hope in the near future to arrange for the holding of a Protestant Day together, partly with a view to common action in regard to social questions and the great task of bringing about a national and religious revival among the people. The Conference of the Reformed Church took a strong stand against the one-child-system. Bishop Ravasz spoke on the fourfold nature of the Church — the Church as queen, champion, martyr, and mother.

The Protestant Churches of Hungary, with the approval of the Government, have raised an American loan of 3,5 Million dollars through the banking house of Rollens and Co., to furnish funds for their religious and social tasks. The loan is expected to provide for the erection of 60 new Churches, 160 new schools containing altogether 450 classrooms, three new middle schools, 5 boarding schools, 70 pastors' houses, and 80 houses for teachers. In addition to this it is intended to build service and business premises.

America.

Ethical standards in Business. — The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is circulating an address of its chairman, Judge Edwin B. Parker, which is an indication of the trend of responsible business thinking towards the formulation of ethical standards. We can only give here a few quotations. Judge Parker calls upon those " seemingly dormant business consciences of many of the stockholders of corporations who, through non-action, impliedly place the seal of their approval on the acts of their offending agents... They cannot accept the profits from corruption and escape the moral stigma which inheres in such profits... Individual responsibility is not lost through corporate action but, on the contrary, is increased in exactly the ratio that the influence exerced through corporate action exceeds that of independent individual action. "

Regarding the problem of seasonal labour, Judge Parker says that " Here is a problem which calls for the maximum of teamwork between business and labour. It is a challenge to the resourcefulness of the business engineer that production and distribution which have been considered as seasonal be made continuous throughout the year, so that seasonal unemployment with its inexcusable waste and suffering may be relegated to the past. "

Regarding the present wealth of America, Judge Parker says : " It is true that industry and prudence have combined with circumstance to bring to our country an unusual degree of prosperity; but can it be that we have not the stamina to stand prosperity ? Can it be that prosperity and poise cannot walk hand in hand ? Must not the constant rehearsal and parading of our prosperity prove offensive to our neighbours ? Does it not better become us to dwell on the responsibilities to ourselves and to the rest of the world which this prosperity implies, and cultivate an attitude of humilit rather than self-satisfied superiority ?

" America is on trial before the world. How shall we use the leisure which the growth of mechanical power has provided ? How shall we use the power which accumulated wealth has placed in our grasp ? Does not the answer turn on the degree of intelligence and

self-control developed and used by the nation or the individual, as the case may be ? Will America meet this test and, instead of flaunting her prosperity, seriously and with her accustomed efficiency discharge her responsabilities, dedicating her prosperity to service, to the task of making the life of the peoples of the world fuller and freer and more abundant ? Is not this America's place on the world's team ? "

* * *

In a Labour Sunday Message of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Father Ryan points out that, while there are fewer strikes now than in former years and living conditions have inproved among working people, the situation is far from being wholly satisfactory. He points out to the fact that the average wages of wage earners are still below 1500 $ per annum, which must be considered unsufficient for a family. He calls for co-partnership in industry in some form or other and for a certain responsibility for employees in management.

The same organisation has issued a Social Code, refuting the present individualistic organisation of industry and proclaiming the idea of fellowship, which is that of Catholicism, as the standard for our social life.

Inf. Serv.

China.

The Chinese Government is preparing new factory laws and appears to be concerning itself more seriously with the welfare of the workers. In March 1929 there will begin too a severer attack on opium smokers, who will be treated as criminals if they do not abandon their habit after a period of six months: « the iron hand of the law will know no pity ». The Christians in China have been carrying on this battle against the drug evil for a very long time. The Churches of Japan and China are also occupying themselves with the question of how they can improve the international relations between their two countries. The Bulletin of the « West China Christian Council » demands that not only should ministers work on behalf of the Church, but that all Christian merchants, industrialists, and doctors should feel themselves responsible for preaching and spreading the message of the love of Jesus Christ. For the purpose of this intellectual work, which extends also into the domain of social questions, the creation of a library for religious research is asked for.

China's Reporter Oct. 28.

Japan.

The National Christian Council called together an all-Japan Christian Conference, which met in Tokio from June 14-18, and forms a

landmark in the Christian movement in this country. 285 delegates were present. The Conference showed the strong influence of the Jerusalem Missionary Conference. For the first time in the Christian history of Japan the problems of the Christianising of industry, and race relations had been placed on the programme, and it was demanded that the Church should devote itself with all its power to the solution of these social problems. The Conference reaffirmed its deep conviction that Christ and His Gospel are the only hopes for the world. It called upon Christians everywhere to make this year a year of repentance devoted to the earnest proclamation of the Gospel, and to the building up of a new Japan.

The Conference also devoted full consideration to the question of evangelisation in country districts, to existing social tension, and to educational questions. An energetic campaign is to be undertaken to make the ideals of the Conference known throughout the country.

The Conferences of the Three Religions of Japan.

Prof. Witte writes in the Magazine for the Study and Science of Religion concerning these conferences, which have recently taken place between the representatives of Christianity, Buddhism and Shintoism in Japan. Of particular interest to us here in the Institute was the treatment of the Social Question. A general resolution was sent to the Government, containing the following suggestions:

1. That the Government should set up a national hospital for the prevention and observation of leprosy, with the object of completely stamping out this disease.

2. That the Government should increase the number of Juvenile Offenders' Courts, in order to protect the adolescents of Japan.

3. That a Children's Bureau should be set up with the purpose of protecting children.

4. That the practice of crippling human beings and then showing them for profit should be put an end to.

5. That a Government Department for Social Questions should be set up.

6. That the traffic in girls should be put an end to and that houses of ill repute should be closed.

7. That the humiliating treatment of discharged prisoners now legally practised should be abolished.

8. That the law concerning the conduct of judicial investigations should be improved.

9. That measures should be taken throughout the whole of Japan for the protection of children in parks, shrines, temples and chur-

ches. It was further declared that it is not permissible that persons carrying on a dishonourable calling should fill important posts. The following objects were declared to be very important for all religions:

1. That the age, below which the supplying of alcoholic drinks to young people is forbidden and punishable by law, should be raised from 21 to 25.

2. That alcohol should not be allowed at any religious gatherings.

3. That the 1st September should be set aside as an anti-alcohol day, and that on that day addresses on abstinence should be given in all shrines, temples and churches.

4. That special efforts should be made for the protection of children and adolescents.

5. That better protection should be provided for the blind, the deaf and the dumb.

6. That efforts should be made for the complete stamping out of leprosy.

7. That shrines, temples, and churches should be made available for religious celebrations in common, and also placed at the disposal of members of other religions.

8. That a closer relationship and greater cooperation should be promoted between the different social classes.

Missions.

The German Protestant Missionary Alliance, which represents a combination of almost all the Protestant Missionary Societies of Germany, at its recent meeting at Tübingen expressed its approval of the idea of founding an international Research Institute for Social Questions in the Missionary Field, especially as fruitful cooperation with the Institute of the Stockholm Conference seems assured, and no expense for the Missionary Alliance would be involved.

C. Social Activities of international secular and religious organisations.

I. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

We have drawn attention on various occasions to the interest taken by the International Labour Office in the social activities of the Churches, and especially in the work of the Stockholm Confe-

rence and the Institute. One of the Office's publications recently contained, under the title " The Churches and Social Problems ", an account of a number of statements of social policy emanating from the Churches, including a note on the meeting of the Continuation Committee in Prague. The same publication contains the following editorial note, which will be of great interest to our readers :

« Three notes published in this number illustrate, by reference both to specific questions and to general policy, certain aspects of the present outlook of the religious world upon social problems. They are signs of a tendency, which is steadily becoming more definite and more manifest, to associate the principles of Christianity and the goodwill of Christians with the effort to promote social justice and progress.

The interest and support which have been brought for some time past by the great religious movements to the cause of social reform, including the endeavours of the International Labour Organisation, are taking a more and more positive and practical form. They have shown themselves at various times in spontaneous action; for example, pronouncements have been made on vital discussions, and offers of intervention have been made during grave disputes. Further, in order that the religious world may have a fuller mastery of social problems and find suitable solutions for them, research services have been established and conferences have been held. Finally, organisations have been set up with a view to practical and systematic action, both national and international.

Doubtless, there are many questions still to be considered, and many details still to be adjusted, not only on the part of the churches but also on the part of those who are more directly involved in the regulation of the conditions of work and of life on a more equitable foundation. At the same time, the fact remains that there is observable among the churches a progressive realisation of what may be called social duty, and that this development cannot fail to be watched with sympathy by all who desire to see the worldwide application of the principles set out in Part XIII of the Treaty of Peace. »

Since the last number of the Bulletin appeared, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office met in Warsaw at the beginning of October. The business of the Session was to consider the effect to be given to the various resolutions adopted by the International Labour Conference in June, and to determine the agenda for the forthcoming Sessions of the Conference.

The majority of the resolutions adopted by the Conference in 1928 either emphasised the importance of enquiries already undertaken by the Office or called for research on new problems.

The Governing Body decided to examine, at its next Session, a report on conditions of work in the textile industry and the possibility of carrying out a general enquiry. It was also decided to carry on negotiations with the organisations concerned with a view to the prevention of coupling accidents on railways. A special committee is to be set up to deal with this subject.

As regards the Sessions of the Conference to be held in 1929, final decisions were taken as to the agenda to be adopted. The first Session, which will open on 30 May 1929, will be devoted to general questions. The discussion begun this year on the subject of accident prevention will be concluded; the Conference will then consider for the first time the question of the regulation of hours of work of salaried employees. Attention will also be given to the native labour situation, with special reference to forced labour.

The Session which will open on 10 October will be devoted to maritime questions. The Conference will resume consideration of the question of the regulation of hours of work on board ship, with a view to determining whether there is any possibility of arriving at an international agreement. Attention will also be given to the problems of seamen's welfare and conditions in ports.

Intellectual Workers.

In accordance with the general provisions of Part XIII of the Treaty of Peace, the International Labour Office has undertaken to give attention to the conditions and the organisation of intellectual workers. In response to repeated requests from the national and international organisations which have been set up during recent years, and in agreement with the Commission on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations, the Governing Body has set up an Advisory Committee on Intellectual Workers.

This Committee held its first meeting on 22 and 23 October 1928. Considerable discussion took place, and a number of resolutions were adopted.

The principal subject discussed was the position of journalists who are obliged, on account of conscientious objections, to leave their employment. Such a situation may frequently arise when there is a change of ownership or of policy of a newspaper. Attention was also given to the problem of clauses in contracts restricting the freedom of employees to accept other employment — the so-called radius clause. It is urgently necessary to arrive at a precise definition of such restrictions. Reference may also be made here to the research to be undertaken by the Office on the subject of unemployment among intellectual workers. Is is intended to issue a general report to sup-

plement the studies already published. The report which has just appeared on the conditions of work and life of journalists is an exhaustive monograph on the situation of a numerous class of intellectual workers, and the manner in which they are affected by modern industrial methods.

Salaried Employees.

The Office is also devoting attention to the situation and conditions of work of salaried employees. As has already been mentioned, the question of the regulation of their hours of work has been included in the agenda of the next Session of the Conference. A consultative meeting of representatives of the organisations concerned met in the Office on 18 October 1928 to consider various problems.

The employees' representatives were in favour of the adoption of a convention fixing maximum hours of work in commercial and other undertakings and services to which the Washington Hours Convention does not apply. They also called for the compilation of the necessary documentary information for a comparative study of the systems of holidays with pay prevailing in the principal countries. Other subjects discussed were apprenticeship and vocational training, the protection of salaried inventors, and the " radius " clause. The desire was expressed that the Governing Body would set up an advisory committee for salaried employees similar to that which has been established for intellectual workers.

Native and Colonial Labour.

Among the various committees set up by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office to deal with special classes of workers e.g. intellectual workers) and special technical questions (e.g. industrial hygiene), is a Committee of Experts on Native Labour.

This Committee held its first meeting in 1927, and discussed the question of forced labour, which, as a result of its discussion, was included in the agenda of the 1929 Session of the Conference. While it has been recognised that the regulation of this practice is necessary in order to prevent abuses, there seems to be universal agreement that the real object to be pursued is the hastening of the disappearance of every form of forced labour.

The Committee continued its work at a second session from 4 to 8 December, when a discussion took place on the position of native workers engaged by contract.

II. THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The most important event in the life of the League of Nations since the last Bulletin appeared was the annual Assembly in September. This Session was the occasion for a general review of the work of the League.

As usual, we shall refer only to social and humanitarian questions.

Opium.

The Opium Convention, adopted in 1925, has been ratified by 29 States and has come into force. This is an advance of great importance, and, if the Convention is strictly applied, it will be a powerful instrument for the suppression of the illicit traffic in drugs. The situation is still serious, however, and drugs continue to be manufactured in quantities far exceeding those needed for medical purposes.

White Slave Traffic.

As regards the white slave traffic, the Assembly drew the attention of those Governments which still maintain a system of licensed houses to the desirability of reconsidering the matter in the light of the conclusions of the experts' report. Attention was also drawn to the importance of the employment of women as police officers.

Child Welfare.

On the subject of child welfare, the Assembly adopted a proposal that a Convention should be drafted with a view to international agreement as regards the repatriation of minors who have been removed from their parents or guardians, the relief of minors of foreign nationalities, etc.

The enquiry into the problem of children exposed to moral and social dangers, for which the sum of 5,000 dollars was given by the American Social Hygiene Association, is to be conducted by Miss Chaptal (France), and will cover Canada Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and the United States.

Alcoholism.

The problem of alcoholism has now been included in the programme of the League of Nations. The Assembly instructed the Health Organisation of the League of Nations to compile statistical information on the subject of alcoholism so as to show the pernicious effect of the consumption of alcoholic drinks of bad quality. It was laid down that alcoholism was not to be taken to refer to wine, beer or cider.

The Economic Committee was instructed to study the drafting of Conventions for the suppression of smuggling in general, and the smuggling of alcohol in particular.

Slavery.

The number of States which have ratified or adhered to the Slavery Convention adopted in 1925 increased during the year from 14 to 26.

Educational Cinema.

Finally, reference may be made to the inauguration of the International Educational Cinema Institute in Rome, following on a proposal of the Italian Government. The Institute is under the control of the Council of the League of Nations, and its function is to encourage the production, distribution and international exchange of films illustrating education, art, industry, agriculture, commerce, hygiene, social training, etc.

III. INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE

The most important event in the Red Cross movement during recent months was the Thirteenth International Conference held in The Hague from 23 to 25 October 1928, at which fifty-five Red Cross Societies and forty-six Governments were represented.

The principal decision taken by the Conference was the adoption of new rules governing the collaboration of the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies in fields of action which are within the scope of both organisations, and especially in relief work in connection with national or international disasters. Each organisation retains its autonomy and the necessary degree of independance.

The Conference adopted numerous resolutions on matters of a technical nature. Attention was given to various general problems which show clearly the new direction taken by the efforts of the Red Cross movement in favour of peace (prohibition of chemical warfare, relaxation of blockade in favour of certain classes of the population, moral campaign and propaganda against war).

With reference to the Save the Children Fund International Union, the Conference adopted a resolution calling on Governments, in the name of the International Red Cross organisation, to take the necessary steps to give effect to the Conventions adopted in July 1927 without delay.

IV. THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND INTERNATIONAL UNION

The General Council of the Save the Children Fund International Union met in Geneva at the beginning of September to examine the annual reports and draft a programme for the ensuing year. The Union has been carrying on systematic activities in Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, the Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom, etc., while the Geneva headquarters maintained and strengthened relations with other international organisations.

The Council was informed of the great distress of children in those parts of Bulgaria where earthquakes had occurred. There is need of effective relief for some 25,000 Bulgarian children.

In the course of the session, an exhibition of children's drawings was opened. In 1927, the Union had suggested a competition for drawings illustrating the Geneva Declaration. Twelve countries took part in the competition, and about two thousand drawings selected by the National Committees were forwarded in Geneva.

The Union has felt for some time that its activities should be extended to include the protection of children in colonies and non-European States. For this purpose, the Union convened a meeting in Geneva from 22 to 24 November 1927, which was attended by representatives of the International Labour Office and the League of Nations, anti-slavery organisations, Protestant and Catholic missionaries, etc. This meeting, which was of a purely private character, recognised the desirability and urgent need of the intervention of public opinion to improve the living conditions of children in many colonies and non-European States. The task of enlightening public opinion is to be undertaken by first compiling comprehensive information and then convening, probably in 1930, a congress at which all the questions involved may be discussed publicly.

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Miss Eglantyne Jebb died in Geneva December 17th after a long and trying sickness. A great and heroic soul has passed away.

V. INTERNATIONAL-ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS

The Executive Committee of the International Association for Social Progress met in Geneva at the end of September to discuss the preparations for the congress to be held in 1929. The agenda will include a number of proposals relating to a policy of family welfare, with special reference to the question of the raising of the school-leaving age.

The Cost of the Peace Effort

The cost of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation is the subject of many misconceptions. The expenditure of the institutions of the League amounts in round figures to 24 millions gold francs (Secretariat: 14 millions; I L O: 8 millions; World Court: 2 millions).

VI. WORLD COMMITTEE OF THE Y. M. C. A.

The fiftieth anniversary of the World Committee of the Young Men's Chistian Associations was celebrated in Geneva on 3 November 1928.

The Rev. A. Koechlin, of Basle, who presided, showed that the young people who founded the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations were among the first to entertain the vision of Christian unity and were the pioneers of movements such as those of Stockholm and Lausanne.

Mr. Des Gouttes described the pre-war work of the Committee in the field of intelligence and co-ordination, its services among prisoners of war from 1914 to 1918, and its efforts for reconstruction and the resumption of friendly relations after the war. At the last World Conference of Young Men's Christian Associations in 1926, the World Committee was reorganised on a more international basis. The Chairman of the World Committee, Dr. John R. Mott, impressed on his hearers the conviction that the young people's Chistian movement may have before it even more wonderful developments than those which it has already experienced.

VII. WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

The General Committee of the World Student Christian Federation met in Mysore, India, from 5 to 16 December 1928. It was preceded and followed by the annual meeting of the Executive Committee. The General Committee was presided over for the last time by Dr. John R. Mott, who has been the source of inspiration to the Federation for thirty years, and is resigning to devote himself exclusively to the International Missionary Council. There were present about eighty persons, including delegates, speakers and guests, from 17 countries and five continents. Apart from the discussion of administrative matters and the future of the Federation (budget, admission of new associations, election of officers, scope of work, etc.), the principal subject to which attention was given was " Christ in the Life of his Disciples ".

The General Committee was entertained by the Maharajah of Mysore.

Literature

The Proceedings of the Thirty-Fifth Evangelical Social Congress have been published by Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, Gőttingen. Addresses by Pastor D. Herz and by Frau Gaedel on the Absorption of Women into Vocational Life are its most important features. In the opening address Herr Simons, President of the High Court of Justice of the Reich, emphasised the point which was also brought out at the Kőnigsberg Church Assembly, that the Church has a position of absolute neutrality in regard to the Party questions of the present day.

The relation between the Kirchl. soz. Bund and the Evang. Sozialer Kongress is chiefly based on a division of work. The Congress is more interested in the theoretical aspects of the social problem whilst the Social Alliance (Kirchlich-sozialer Bund) devotes itself rather to practical work. It has also, generally speaking, a different political tendency.

The Background of the Social Gospel in America.

This is the title of a most valuable and timely publication discussing the historical background and antecedents of the present social movement within the American Churches. Its author is Mr. W. A. Visser t' Hooft, one of the secretaries of the World Committee of the Y.M.C.A. The book may well serve to interpret to European readers some of the deeper aspects of American life, since it not only gives a very authoritative presentation and evaluation of a rich and varied material but is written with the author constantly having before him those fundamental issues now being discussed as to the nature of the Kingdom of God and its relationship to things human. We shall deal with it more fully in a succeding number of the Bulletin.

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Dr. Reinhard Mumm has contributed to the Church Year Book (1927) for Germany, a chronicle of Christian Social Activities in Germany (which is now published separately by C. Bertelsmann in Gütersloh). It surveys the activities in the field of Legislature and Social Reform by the churches and various independent religious organizations.

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The Report on the Committee Meeting of the International Association for Home Missions and Christian Charity, held at Zurich in June 1928, has been published in German by Dr. Fűllkrug, at the Wichern-Verlag, Berlin-Dahlem.